

***In the Claims***

The status of claims in the case is as follows:

1     1.   [Currently amended] A method for processing invoices  
2     by having the individual employee of an enterprise creating  
3     an original order for goods and services for end-use by said  
4     individual employee determine that a resulting invoice  
5     should be paid or not, comprising the steps of:

6           receiving at an enterprise accounting and catalog  
7           system from said individual employee a requisition for  
8           goods or services from a vendor for end-use by said  
9           individual employee;

10           said enterprise accounting and catalog system preparing  
11           from said requisition a purchase order;

12           said enterprise accounting and catalog system  
13           submitting said purchase order selectively as one of an  
14           EDI message and a paper purchasing document to said  
15           vendor;

16           receiving from ~~said vendor~~ a first vendor an invoice

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17 for said goods or services ~~selectively~~ as an electronic  
18 invoice ~~and a paper invoice, said electronic invoice~~  
19 ~~being received~~ for processing by said enterprise  
20 accounting and catalog system;

21 receiving from a second vendor an invoice for goods or  
22 services as a paper invoice and said paper invoice  
23 ~~being received~~ for processing to said enterprise  
24 accounting and catalog system by accounts payable  
25 personnel other than said individual employee;

26 preparing an invoice image of an invoice received for  
27 said goods or services ordered by said individual  
28 employee;

29 storing said invoice image in an image store;

30 keying said image to invoice data;

31 said enterprise accounting and catalog system  
32 communicating by electronic mail ~~an invoice~~ a plurality  
33 of confirmation request requests to said individual  
34 employee creating ~~said original order~~ original orders  
35 for goods or services for end-use by said individual

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36 employee, each said request instructing said individual  
 37 employee to log on to said enterprise accounting and  
 38 catalog system, including said invoice data and a link  
 39 to said invoice image, and specifying that each said  
 40 invoice is subject selectively to negative confirmation  
 41 and positive confirmation processing,

42 said negative confirmation processing for a first  
 43 confirmation request including advising said individual  
 44 employee via e-mail that said invoice is confirmed  
 45 unless specifically not approved by said individual  
 46 employee, and said positive confirmation processing for  
 47 a second confirmation request including advising said  
 48 individual employee that said invoice will be confirmed  
 49 upon entry by said individual employee of approval;

50 providing at a user workstation a search interface in  
 51 said enterprise accounting and catalog system for said  
 52 individual employee to enter criteria and have links to  
 53 images of invoices that match said criteria be  
 54 displayed at said user workstation; and

55 responsive to selection of a link by said individual,  
 56 displaying said invoice image for approval by said

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57 individual creating said original order selectively by  
58 said negative confirmation and positive confirmation  
59 processing.

1 2. [Original] The method of claim 1, further comprising  
2 the step of:

3 preparing said invoice images by scanning paper  
4 invoices received from a vendor.

1 3. [Previously presented] The method of claim 2, further  
2 comprising the step of:

3 preparing other of said invoice images by converting  
4 electronic invoices received from a vendor into an  
5 image file representation having the look of a paper  
6 invoice.

1 4. [Previously presented] The method of claim 1, said  
2 invoice confirmation request advising said individual  
3 employee to process said confirmation as negative  
4 confirmation or a positive confirmation.

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1 5. [Previously presented] The method of claim 4, said  
 2 invoice confirmation request further advising said  
 3 individual employee to log on to a front-end requisition and  
 4 catalog server to view invoices for confirmation.

1 6. [Previously presented] The method of claim 5, further  
 2 comprising the step responsive to said individual employee  
 3 logging on to said front-end server of displaying a list of  
 4 invoices awaiting confirmation and responsive to user  
 5 selection of a selected invoice, presenting images of  
 6 invoices corresponding to links selected by said individual  
 7 employee.

1 7. [Previously presented] The method of claim 1, further  
 2 comprising the steps of presenting to said individual  
 3 employee an interface for selecting images of invoices  
 4 matching a selection criteria.

8. [Canceled]

1 9. [Currently amended] A system for processing invoices  
 2 by having the individual employee creating an original order  
 3 for goods or services for end use by said individual

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4 determine that a resulting invoice should be paid or not,  
5 comprising:

6 a front-end requisition and catalog system;

7 a back-end procurement services system;

8 a scanner for scanning images of invoices;

9 an image system and store for storing said scanned  
10 images and serving them to said workstation keyed to  
11 said invoice;

12 a workstation selectively receiving user entry from  
13 said individual employee of a requisition request for  
14 goods or services for end-use by said individual  
15 employee, receiving confirmation requests, and viewing  
16 images of invoices from said image system and store;  
17 said confirmation request instructing said individual  
18 employee to log on to said back-end system to view and  
19 approve a first invoice ~~an invoice selectively~~ by  
20 negative and a second invoice by positive confirmation  
21 processing, said negative confirmation processing  
22 including advising said individual employee via e-mail

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23 that said invoice is confirmed unless specifically not  
24 approved by said individual employee, and said positive  
25 confirmation processing including advising said  
26 individual employee that said invoice will be confirmed  
27 upon entry by said individual employee of approval;

28 said front-end system selectively receiving said  
29 requisition requests from said workstation, forwarding  
30 said requisition requests to said back-end system, and  
31 receiving confirmation requests from said back-end  
32 system for forwarding to said workstation; and

33 said back-end system selectively issuing purchase  
34 orders against said requisitions to a vendor  
35 selectively at least one invoice as ~~one of an~~  
36 electronic invoice and another invoice as a paper  
37 purchase order, receiving and processing invoices  
38 electronic invoices directly from said vendor and paper  
39 invoices as received and processed by accounts payable  
40 personnel other than said individual employee, keying  
41 invoice images to invoice information, and processing  
42 confirmation requests to said front-end system for  
43 communication to said workstation for approval by said  
44 individual employee creating said original order for

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45 goods or services for end use by said individual  
46 employee.

1 10. [Currently amended] A program storage device readable  
2 by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions  
3 executable by a machine to perform a method for processing  
4 invoices by having the individual employee creating an  
5 original order as an end user of a commodity or service  
6 determine that a resulting invoice should be paid or not,  
7 said method comprising:

8 receiving a plurality of invoices;

9 preparing for each said invoice an invoice image;

10 storing said invoice image in an image store;

11 keying said image to invoice data;

12 communicating first and second invoice confirmation  
13 request requests to said individual employee, each said  
14 request including said invoice data for respective  
15 invoice confirmation requests and ~~a link~~ respective

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16            links to ~~said invoice image~~ invoice images;

17            responsive to requester selection ~~of said~~ of a first

18            link, displaying ~~said invoice~~ a corresponding invoice

19            image to said individual employee for approval by said

20            individual employee creating said original order

21            according to a specified confirmation process;

22            ~~consisting selectively of~~ said individual employee

23            processing a first invoice by a negative confirmation

24            process including advising said individual employee via

25            e-mail that said first invoice is confirmed unless

26            specifically not approved by said individual employee,

27            and said individual employee processing a second

28            invoice by a positive confirmation process including

29            advising said individual employee that said invoice

30            will be confirmed upon entry by said individual

31            employee of approval.

1            11. [Currently amended] A computer program product for

2            processing invoices by having the individual employee

3            creating an original order for goods and services for end-

4            use by said individual employee determine that a resulting

5            invoice should be paid or not according to steps comprising:

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6 receiving at an enterprise accounting and catalog  
7 system from one or more of said individual ~~employee~~  
8 employees a plurality of a ~~requisition~~ requisitions for  
9 goods or services from a vendor for end use by said  
10 individual ~~employee~~ employees;

11 said enterprise accounting and catalog system preparing  
12 from said ~~requisition a purchase order~~ requisitions a  
13 plurality of purchase orders;

14 said enterprise accounting and catalog system  
15 submitting each said purchase order selectively as EDI  
16 message and a paper purchasing document ~~to said a~~  
17 vendor;

18 receiving ~~from said~~ from a first vendor an invoice for  
19 said goods or services ~~selectively~~ as an electronic  
20 invoice ~~and a paper invoice~~, said electronic invoice  
21 being received for processing by said enterprise  
22 accounting and catalog system;

23 receiving from a second vendor an invoice for said  
24 goods or serves as a paper invoice, and said said paper  
25 invoice being received for processing to said

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26 enterprise accounting and catalog system by accounts  
27 payable personnel other than said individual employee;  
  
28 preparing ~~an invoice image~~ invoice images of ~~an invoice~~  
29 a plurality of invoices received for said goods or  
30 services ordered by said individual ~~employee~~ employees;  
  
31 storing said invoice ~~image in~~ invoice images in an  
32 image store;  
  
33 keying each said image to corresponding invoice data;  
  
34 said enterprise accounting and catalog system  
35 communicating by electronic mail an invoice  
36 confirmation request for each invoice image to said  
37 individual employee, said request instructing said  
38 individual employee to log on to said enterprise  
39 accounting and catalog system, including said invoice  
40 data and a link to said invoice image, and specifying  
41 that said invoice is selectively subject to negative  
42 confirmation and positive confirmation processing, a  
43 first invoice processed by said negative confirmation  
44 processing including advising said individual employee  
45 via e-mail that said first invoice is confirmed unless

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46 specifically not approved by said individual employee,  
47 and a second invoice processed by said positive  
48 confirmation processing including advising said  
49 individual employee that said invoice will be confirmed  
50 upon entry by said individual employee of approval;

51 providing at a user workstation a search interface in  
52 said enterprise accounting and catalog system for said  
53 individual employee to enter criteria and have links to  
54 images of invoices that match said criteria be  
55 displayed at said user workstation; and

56 responsive to selection of a link by said individual  
57 employee, displaying said invoice image for approval by  
58 said individual employee creating said original order  
59 for goods or services for end use by said individual  
60 employee selectively by said negative confirmation and  
61 positive confirmation processing.

1 12. [Previously presented] The program storage device of  
2 claim 10, said method further comprising:

3 preparing said invoice images by scanning paper  
4 invoices received from a vendor.

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1 13. [Previously presented] The program storage device of  
2 claim 12, said method further comprising:

3 preparing other of said invoice images by converting  
4 electronic invoices received from a vendor into an  
5 image file representation having the look of a paper  
6 invoice.

1 14. [Previously presented] The program storage device of  
2 claim 10, said invoice confirmation request advising said  
3 individual employee to process said confirmation as negative  
4 confirmation or a positive confirmation.

1 15. [Previously presented] The program storage device of  
2 claim 14, said invoice confirmation request further advising  
3 said individual employee to log on to a front- end  
4 requisition and catalog server to view invoices for  
5 confirmation.

1 16. [Previously presented] The program storage device of  
2 claim 15, said method further comprising responsive to said  
3 individual employee logging on to said front-end server of  
4 displaying a list of invoices awaiting confirmation and

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5 responsive to selection of a selected invoice by said  
6 individual employee, presenting images of invoices  
7 corresponding to links selected by said individual employee.

1 17. [Previously presented] The program storage device of  
2 claim 10, said method further comprising presenting to said  
3 individual employee an interface for selecting images of  
4 invoices matching a selection criteria.

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